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Letter from the Secretary of the Interior, relative to the condition, location, &c., of the Teton-Sioux

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TETON-SIOUX INDIANS.

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

RELATIVE TO

The condition, location, &c., of the Teton-Sioux.

JANUARY 15, 1873.—Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs and ordered to be printed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, D. C. January 10, 1873.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the following resolution, passed by the House of Representatives on the 6th instant, on motion of Hon. Mr. Shanks:

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Interior be directed to inform the House of the number and location of the Teton-Sioux, their condition, organization, and disposition, and what use has been made during the current fiscal year of the money appropriated by Congress for their benefit.

In reply to said resolution, I transmit herewith a copy of a letter dated the 9th instant, from the Acting Commissioner of Indian Affairs, (marked A,) together with the statement therein referred to, (marked B,) containing the information requested as to the disbursements made under the appropriation for the support and civilization of the Teton-Sioux, and the amount remaining on hand to the credit of said appropriation.

With regard to the other points upon which information is requested by the resolution, namely, as to the location, condition, organization, and disposition of the Teton-Sioux, I respectfully make the following statement: In the month of June, 1872, the Secretary of the Interior appointed a commission to visit said Indians, and report as to their numbers and condition, under instructions furnished by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs. The report of said commission is herewith inclosed, (marked C,) and contains a detailed statement concerning the tribe of Indians referred to. This report will be published with the annual report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and contains direct replies to all the points upon which information is requested.

I also inclose a printed copy of a letter of the Secretary of the Interior, dated January 25, 1872, (marked D,) transmitting to Congress a letter from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs of the 23d of the same month, (marked E,) with inclosures, consisting of a communication from J. A. Viall, superintendent of Indian affairs for Montana, dated the 23d

of December, 1871, (marked F,) and one from Agent A. J. Simmons, dated December 5, 1871, (marked G,) reporting certain negotiations had by the agent under the direction of Superintendent Viall with the Indians referred to, and also the views of the agent in regard to their numbers, &c.

I also inclose an extract from the report made by Hon. Alexander Ramsey, then governor and *ex officio* superintendent of Indian affairs for the Territory of Minnesota, dated October 17, 1849, (marked H,) relative to the Indians in question. (See report of Commissioner of Indian Affairs for 1849, page 84.)

I believe the documents herewith inclosed contain all the information in the possession of the Department in regard to the subject-matter of the resolution.

I have the honor to be, your obedient servant,

B. R. COWEN,
Acting Secretary.

The Honorable the SPEAKER
of the House of Representatives.

A.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, D. C., January 9, 1873.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith, in obedience to a resolution of the House of Representatives of the 6th instant, a statement of the disbursements under appropriation, "support and civilization of the Teton-Sioux," showing the object of the same and the amount remaining on hand to the credit of said appropriation on the books of this office.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. R. CLUM,
Acting Commissioner.

Hon. B. R. COWEN,
Acting Secretary of the Interior.

B.

Statement of disbursements from appropriation "support and civilization of the Teton-Sioux."

Date.	To whom remitted.	Amount.	Remarks.
1872.			
June 20	Richard Joseph, disbursing clerk.	\$1,500 00	Advanced to Commissioner Cowen.
July 5	P. Lorillard & Co.	3,300 00	Annuity goods, paid through the Treasury Department.
July 8	H. B. Cladin & Co.	1,084 26	Do.
July 9	Wilson & Bradbury.	960 16	Do.
July 9	John Dobson.	13,975 05	Do.
July 10	E. H. Ammidown.	5,152 00	Do.
July 10	H. Wallach's Sons.	1,734 40	Do.
July 11	P. Van Valkenburgh & Co.	1,577 00	Do.
July 12	Thomas D. Day & Co.	80 00	Do.
July 12	Griswold, Whitman & Welch.	978 25	Do.
July 12	Collins & Co.	920 00	Do.
July 16	Hoyt, Busick & Co.	103 90	Do.
July 16	Landers, Frary & Clark.	342 40	Do.
July 17	Jay Cooke & Co.	27,180 00	Account of A. M. Finnell, for bacon, sugar, coffee, &c., furnished under contract of July 31, 1871, paid through the Treasury Department.
July 18	Buckley, Welling & Co.	9,985 46	Presents for Teton-Sioux assembled at Fort Peck, paid through the Treasury Department.

Statement of disbursements from appropriations, &c.—Continued.

Date.	To whom remitted.	Amount.	Remarks.
1872.			
July 20	N. E. James & Co	\$520 00	Annuity goods, paid through the Treasury Department.
Aug. 1	O. H. Schreiner.....	1, 440 00	Account of Enos Brown; annuity goods, paid through the Treasury Department.
Aug. 6	J. W. Gannett, auditor	116 25	{ Transporting agent Daniels and four Indians, under orders, paid through the Treasury Department.
Aug. 6	Union Pacific Railroad Company.....	116 25	
Aug. 9	Durfee & Peck.....	37, 268 00	Account of A. M. Finnell, for flour, bacon, sugar, &c., furnished under contract of July 31, 1871, paid through the Treasury Department.
Aug. 22	Buckley, Welling & Co.....	520 90	Express-charges on goods, paid through the Treasury Department.
Sept. 4	Jasper A. Viall, superintendent.....	5, 051 53	For pay, subsistence, &c., of employés at Fort Peck, for second and third quarters of 1872.
Sept. 13	J. W. Daniels, special agent	1, 531 15	For expenses of the agent and four Indians attending council at Fort Peck, under orders of the Acting Secretary of the Interior, dated June 22, 1872.
Sept. 21	Allen, Stephens & Co.....	110, 732 42	Account of J. T. Baldwin, for flour, bacon, sugar, &c., furnished under contract of July 10, 1872, paid through the Treasury Department.
Sept. 23	J. C. O'Connor, special agent	5, 000 00	{ For expenses of Teton delegation visiting Washington.
Sept. 23	A. J. Simmons, agent.....	10, 000 00	
Oct. 1	Durfee & Peck.....	6, 058 23	For funds advanced, transportation of, and merchandise furnished Commissioners Cowen, Turney, and Wham, paid through the Treasury Department.
Oct. 1do	1, 190 00	Account of M. C. Thum, for board furnished Indians visiting Fort Peck, at the request of Commissioners Cowen, &c., paid through the Treasury Department.
Oct. 1	J. W. Gannett, auditor	46 50	{ Transporting three Indians from Omaha to Cheyenne, paid through the Treasury Department.
Oct. 1	Union Pacific Railroad Company.....	46 50	
Oct. 9	Scott & Co	658 75	Account of Durfee & Peck for transporting Indian goods, paid through the Treasury Department.
Oct. 29	Richard Joseph, disbursing clerk.....	9, 000 00	Board, clothing, &c., of Teton delegation visiting Washington.
Oct. 30	Henry E. Leman	180 34	Rifles for members of the Teton delegation lately visiting Washington, paid through the Treasury Department.
Nov. 12	J. W. Daniels, special agent	103 50	On account of expenses attending his visit to Fort Peck.
Nov. 19	Gilman, Son & Co.....	43, 121 75	Account of J. T. Baldwin, for flour, bacon, &c., furnished under contract of July 10, 1872, paid through the Treasury Department.
Nov. 26	Scott & Co.....	349 26	Account of Durfee & Peck, for transporting goods, paid through the Treasury Department.
Dec. 4	J. C. O'Connor, special agent	81 72	On account of expenses of Teton delegation under his charge.
Dec. 23	J. W. Gannett, auditor	852 50	{ Transporting Teton delegation from Omaha to Ogden, paid through the Treasury Department.
Dec. 23	Union Pacific Railroad Company.....	852 50	
Dec. 26	Jay Cooke & Co.....	1, 691 00	Account of C. A. Broadwater, for horses, &c., furnished Teton delegation, paid through the Treasury Department.
Dec. 30	Hon. B. R. Cowen.....	811 84	Balance due Hon. B. R. Cowen on settlement of his account as special commissioner, paid through the Treasury Department.
	Total disbursements	308, 273 77	

RECAPITULATION.

Amount paid for subsistence	\$220, 302 17
Amount paid for expenses of delegations, including presents, &c., and pay of employés at Fort Peck	52, 184 77
Amount paid for annuity goods	32, 227 42
Amount paid for transportation	3, 559 41
Total disbursements	308, 273 77
Balance on hand	191, 726 23
Amount appropriated per act approved May 29, 1872	500, 000 00

The subsistence stores purchased are calculated to last through the entire year, it being necessary to accumulate a sufficient supply before the close of navigation on the Missouri River for the winter, inasmuch as the first boat for the next season cannot be counted on to reach Fort Peck before the 1st of June, 1873.

Accounts of M. C. Thum for the buildings erected at Fort Peck, amounting to \$4,850, and the National Dispatch line for transporting Indian goods, amounting to \$534.67, are now in the office of the Second Auditor of the Treasury for settlement.

C.

Report of Hon. B. R. Cowen, Assistant Secretary of the Interior, Hon. N. J. Turney, and Mr. J. W. Wham, commissioners to visit the Teton-Sioux at and near Fort Peck, Montana.

WASHINGTON, D. C., October 15, 1872.

SIR: The commission, appointed by the Secretary of Interior on the 15th day of June, 1872, to visit the Teton-Sioux on the Upper Missouri River, have the honor to submit the following report. We acknowledge the receipt of your instructions, furnished us at the suggestion of the Secretary of the Interior, to guide us in an investigation, under which this report is made.

While *en route* to the neighborhood of the Indians, the chairman telegraphed Dr. Daniels, United States Indian agent at the Red Cloud agency, to proceed to Fort Peck, Montana, taking with him some of the most influential chiefs at his agency. A similar telegram was sent to Colonel O'Connor at the Grand River agency. Dr. Daniels took with him Interpreter Joseph Bissonette, Red Dog, and High Wolf of the delegation which he had, a short time before, taken to Washington, and Wolf's Ears, a young brave of considerable influence and promise. The affairs of the Grand River agency were in such condition that Colonel O'Connor did not feel willing to leave his post, but he promptly sent seven of his principal chiefs, with an interpreter, under charge of Mr. Hardie, one of the employés at the agency.

After many troublesome delays, consequent upon traveling in such a country, we reached Fort Peck on the 26th of July, via Corinne, Utah, and Helena and Fort Benton, Montana Territory. Fort Peck is a small trading-post, located on the left bank of the Missouri River five hundred miles below Fort Benton, within the Territory of Montana, and within the boundaries of the reservation described by the treaty of July 13 and 15, and September 1, 1868, for the Gros-Ventres, Piegiens, Blackfeet, and River Crow Indians.

The Indians we were appointed to visit were called by our letters of appointment, by your instructions, and by the Indian appropriation bill for the current year, Teton-Sioux, and by that name we will designate them in our report. The numerous tribes and bands of the great Dakota Nation have been intermarrying and changing from other causes for so long a time that their former division into Tetons and Santees is no longer recognized, and the former term is seldom or never heard among those Indians whom we designate by that title. These names grew out of the former designation of the Sioux, by which all those west and south of the Missouri River were called Tetons and all those north and east of that river Santees. By that division, therefore, these may still be called Tetons, although they are apparently ignorant of the existence of such a name as applied to themselves.

The Tetons, at the time when the efforts of the Department to conciliate them began, embraced a number of Indians representing almost every tribe and band of the Dakota Nation, and were roaming on the hunting-grounds lying south of the Missouri River, and embracing the Yellowstone, Powder River, and Big Horn Valleys. Their camps embraced those members of the various tribes who had become dissatisfied with the conduct of those tribes which had assumed treaty relations with the Government, and who were opposed to peace on any terms with the whites. Such a confederation, bound together solely by a common and implacable hatred toward the whites, as may be supposed, exercise a reign of terror in the country through which they roam, and commit many outrages upon the scattered white men found therein. Many whites were murdered in the vicinity of Fort Peck alone, and upward of thirty have been killed since the establishment of that trading-post within its immediate neighborhood. This confederacy is supposed to have been under the control of Sitting Bull and Black Moon, two chiefs of the Ojibwa Sioux, who are mentioned by you in your letter of instructions as having been engaged in the Minnesota massacre of 1862. We do not agree with you that these chiefs participated in the Minnesota war; no mention of them is found in the proceedings of the commission which tried the participants in the massacre, nor in the history of the war; nor is any mention made of any of their tribe having taken part therein. Dr. Daniels, who was closely identified with the scenes of that war, does not think they had any part in it, neither does Red Dog, nor any other

of the leading chiefs with whom we have conversed. They have committed crime enough, without being charged with any of which they are innocent. That these chiefs have great influence among the Teton, however, is undoubted, notwithstanding some of the chiefs from the lower agencies affect to consider Sitting Bull as a mean-spirited sort of fellow, with but little or no influence, and very small following. The Indians whom we met of the Teton consider him the leading man of their people, and their speeches at the council sufficiently indicated their fear of and respect for him. When he has visited the post his control of his braves is said to have been more complete than is usual among Indians, and other chiefs showed their respect for him by removing their koo feathers from their heads in his presence. In order to fully understand the situation with regard to Sitting Bull, it may be well to state the fact that he has in his company a Sandwich Islander, called Frank, who appears to exercise great control in the Indian councils, and who excels the Indians in their bitter hatred to the whites. We have had no opportunity of forming an accurate or even an approximate idea of Sitting Bull's followers prior to the secession therefrom of those now in the immediate neighborhood of Fort Peck. Their numbers have been variously estimated, as you know, at from fifteen hundred to three thousand lodges, but, from the data we have been able to collect, we are of the opinion that one-half the smaller number is nearer the true estimate of his present force, if it be not really in excess of the truth. This estimate may or may not include a large number of Sioux from the Red Cloud and Spotted Tail agencies, and roaming the Powder River and Yellowstone countries.

On our arrival at Fort Peck we found very few Indians in that vicinity. A few lodges only were there under Medicine Bear, a Cuthhead Yanktonnais, who may be considered as the head chief of all we have yet drawn from Sitting Bull's control. The others were hunting buffalo and preparing skins for their new lodges, of which they stood greatly in need. They were in the country lying north of the forty-eighth degree of north latitude. The work of hunting nomadic tribes over so vast an extent of country requires much time, but we succeeded to such an extent that, on the 17th of August, we had collected the following into a camp within a mile of the fort, viz:

	Lodges.
Shooters in the Pines	151
Yanktonnais	113
Tatkaunnais	120
Oncapapas	69
Total	<u>453</u>

These lodges, with their inmates, were counted accurately on the 19th of August, and there were in all 2,883 persons, an average of a little over six persons to a lodge. In this a very large proportion, probably two-thirds, were children under fourteen years of age. Of those which we had hoped to have brought in, but did not find, we were able to identify with tolerable accuracy the following, viz:

	Lodges.
Yellow Liver	60
Black Tiger	24
Long Sioux	28
White Eagle	30
Scattering lodges which had left from time to time	40
Total	<u>182</u>

Yellow Liver has, no doubt, returned to Sitting Bull's camp. White Eagle has probably gone down the river toward Buford, while the others have, no doubt, scattered off to the north of Milk River. Some lodges of the Shooters in the Pines also went off down the river on account of a quarrel with Medicine Bear, but their numbers were unimportant. The last-mentioned one hundred and eighty-two lodges, with the exception of Yellow Liver's sixty lodges, properly belong to those who may now be considered as so far attracted to this post that they will not easily be estranged, so long as they are not neglected by the Government; and there is good reason to believe that Yellow Liver will return and bring others with him, judging from his friendly disposition while at the post. But, excluding entirely the one hundred and eighty-two lodges which we know nothing about personally, we have four hundred and fifty-three lodges, embracing nearly three thousand Indians as a nucleus, to which we may reasonably hope to attract others, in proportion as the Government is willing to minister to their more pressing needs.

With these Indians we mingled freely for more than two weeks; observed their condition, their character, and their wants. It is necessary to consider these before they can be properly dealt with and provided for. They are very poor, indifferently mounted,

and armed for the most part with bows and arrows. There are some old-pattern muzzle-loading guns and pistols, but probably not more than ten or a dozen improved breech-loading arms among them, while the latter are almost useless, because of the impossibility of their procuring ammunition to suit them. The mass of these Indians are entirely ignorant of the routine of an agency, suspicious of the proffered kindness of the Government, and accept whatever is given them in much the same spirit with which the hog munches the acorns, without a thought of him who thrashes them down. They have a very faint idea of the advantages of civilization, and our talk with them upon that subject fell upon unwilling ears. In short, they are a very fair type of the American Indian uninfluenced by contact with the white race, and afford an excellent subject for a missionary work. Their utmost intellectual effort is to devise forms of entreaty which will induce the whites to give them whatever they want, and their ideas of the respective purposes for which the two races were created seem to be that the whites were made to give them whatever the Indians want and ask for.

Our council was held at Fort Peck, beginning on the 21st day of August. There were present in the council, besides the commissioners and the white men employed at the post, about two hundred chiefs and warriors. The council occupied two days, and a report of its proceedings accompanies this report. It was only partially successful; that is to say, they seemed entirely willing to receive everything we had to give them, although they hesitated for some time about taking our presents, because we would not deliver them at their lodges, a mile away. This difficulty, however, was very satisfactorily settled by their summoning their squaws, who were able to get away with everything we had for them. It will be observed that the second day's council adjourned with a very decided expression against sending a delegation to Washington. This was in accordance with the almost unanimous feeling of the Indians at that time; and we felt that we would not be able to induce any of them to return with us. This feeling was confirmed by an occurrence the second day after the council adjourned. On the first day thereafter a band of Indians came to the post and gave a war-dance; we gave them some presents. The next day there came another band and danced; we gave them, also, some presents; but for some reason, probably because they fancied their presents less valuable than were given to those who came on the previous day, they became angry, threw their presents from them, and began firing their guns promiscuously as a mark of displeasure, one shot passing through a window near by. They then went away to camp whooping and yelling in derision. The next morning the principal chiefs came to the agents' room, at the invitation of our chairman, when he made the outbreak of the day before the occasion of giving them a talk, which in the end resulted in an entire revolution of feeling in regard to going to Washington, and a promise that the parties to the performance of the previous day should be properly punished as soon as identified. The chiefs also collected a large number of chiefs, and warriors, and, in all the savage magnificence of feathers and paint, gave us a dance in good style, agreeing, in advance, that we should give them no presents at all at that time.

In the council the question of the construction of the railroad and the site for an agency, (the former of which was pressed with considerable persistency,) we declined to discuss with them until they should visit the Great Father. They were most pressing, however, in their demand for guns and ammunition, every speaker seeming to be more demonstrative than those who had preceded him. This, it will be seen, we met by a prompt and decided refusal.

Referring to the location of an agency for these Indians, or their disposition among existing agencies, upon which we were directed to report, we have to say that the nearest agency to Fort Peck is the Milk River agency, at Fort Browning, distant one hundred and forty miles by the nearest practicable wagon-route. There are now supplied at that agency the Gros Ventres, River Crows, Assinaboines, and Santees, estimated at from four to five thousand. The location is a very bad one; the water is alkaline, and there is no farming-land in the neighborhood, while the buildings are dilapidated and almost untenable. The Assinaboines and Santees are friendly with the Sioux at Fort Peck, very friendly with the whites, and anxious to have their agency removed to the Missouri River. The Gros Ventres and River Crows are at war with the Sioux, and little hope of peace exists. The cost of transportation by land to the Milk River agency from Fort Benton or Fort Peck is about \$1.50 per hundred pounds.

We respectfully suggest the establishment of an agency on the Missouri River at or near Fort Peck, and the removal of the Assinaboines and Santees to that point, to mingle with the Tetons, and be supplied by the agent there. The Gros Ventres and River Crows could then be supplied at Fort Belknap, where the Government now has supplies under a sub-agent. Should this arrangement be perfected, the buildings at Fort Browning should be destroyed. The advantages of such an arrangement would be—

First. An agency on the Missouri River, by which a great saving in transportation would be effected, and the agency be more accessible.

Secondly. The Assinaboines and Santees would be removed from proximity to the Gros

Ventres and River Crows, who are the traditional enemies of their friends the Tetons, and between whom that enmity is liable to cause trouble at any time.

Thirdly. It would largely increase the numbers at Fort Peck, which would give increased confidence to those already there and tend to disturb the efforts of Sitting Bull's followers, who are trying to draw off those who are now at peace. Fort Peck, as we have said, is simply a trading-post, in a good location, near good timber, water, and grass.

Under authority from the Superintendent, Agent Simmons has already had additional buildings constructed, consisting of a warehouse, 100 by 25 feet, and two rooms for the use of the agent and employes, all surrounded by a stockade. An additional room of the same size and another room for the interpreter would furnish sufficient accommodations for the use of an agency for several years, and can be built at a very reasonable cost. This arrangement contemplates the boarding of the agent and employes at the mess-room of the fort, where they can be accommodated at \$25 per month, as they are at present. There are several good sites below Fort Peck, on the river, which would be suitable for an agency: one at the site of old Fort Galpin, five miles below, where the landing is bad during low water; one at the mouth of the Milk River, twenty miles below, and one at the mouth of Poplar River, seventy-five miles below. These several locations were alluded to by the Indians as being desirable places for an agency. In no respect, however, are they superior to Fort Peck, though either of them is probably as good, excepting as to the landing, which at Fort Peck is very good in any stage of water.

In regard to the census of Sitting Bull's camp, we cannot, of course, report anything definite from our own personal knowledge, as the messengers sent out failed to reach him. In a letter from Dr. Daniels, received since our return home, he reports that one of the messengers sent out from his agency to communicate with Sitting Bull reports that there were four hundred lodges of Indians in the Powder River country, of which No Neck is the head chief. Black Moon and Sitting Bull have their own family relations, twenty to thirty lodges each. There were many chiefs and head-men, who had a few lodges each, but all came together to make up the war-party against the Crows. From inquiries among the Indians at Fort Peck, however, and especially of those Ocapapas of Sitting Bull's immediate family, it would seem that there were about seven hundred lodges under his command proper in the early spring. It is certain that there was, in the country now being traveled by him, a large number of Ogallala Sioux, Cheyennes, and Arapahoes from the Platte River, and Brulés from Spotted Tail's agency. How many of these sympathize with, or have attached themselves to, Sitting Bull, we have no means of knowing: and it was impossible, from the reports received, to segregate the Tetons from the aggregate. We have advices from the Indians, as well as from parties from the Platte River, that from the Red Cloud agency alone there were in the Powder River country, under Black Twin, Red Horn, Red Shirt, Greasy Horse, and Sorrel Horse, three thousand Sioux, and under other chiefs about four thousand Cheyennes and Arapahoes. What numbers are there from other agencies we have no information, but the Indians with whom we have talked have much to say about being charged with mischief to the whites, which was the work of the Sioux, from the agencies farther south. It was not practicable for us to visit Sitting Bull's camp in person, not knowing his location, and being entirely without escort and transportation. Otherwise we might have presented a more satisfactory report of his people. We have simply to give the figures we were able to gather from the various sources named. There were present at our council several of Sitting Bull's chiefs, including Techauke, his brother-in-law. He is a fine-looking but rather quiet and modest man. He said nothing in council, but we had many private talks with him, and gleaned a tolerable idea of Sitting Bull's character. Techauke says when he left Sitting Bull's camp, the latter told him "to go, and whenever he found a white man who would tell the truth, to return, and he would go to see him." Techauke did not tell us whether his search had been successful, but he seemed to have gained confidence in the whites, and to be well satisfied that we were able and willing to perform all that we promised. He said that Sitting Bull did not start out this season to commit any depredations on the whites, but only to fight the Crows, and that he will come to the agency at Peck, when the "snow flies," to talk peace. If he does make peace, we are confident that it will be a lasting one, as he seems to have sufficient influence to control his people and sufficient courage to afford to act upon his own ideas of what is best, regardless of the actions of his braves. If such a peace is made, it is not improbable that Sitting Bull will be the Red Dog of the Upper Missouri.

In addition to the Indians herein mentioned as being present at Fort Peck, we had brought from the Milk River agency ten of the leading chiefs. After a few days' stay at Fort Peck, they all got sick, and were sent home before the council. The Indians from the Platte agency and from Grand River, also, returned home before the council. The former were sent home on account of their long absence and the necessity for the presence there of the agent. We sent the latter home because their presence did not seem to conduce to the object we had in view. The Tetons were jealous of them

because of their being agency Indians, and suspicious that they visited Fort Peck only to secure a portion of the presents and amnities to be distributed. Of Red Dog we cannot speak in too high terms. He seemed to know just what was necessary to be done and how to do it. He recognized the disaffection of the Grand River One-papas, and even though their demeanor toward him was far from friendly, he possessed the ready tact to mollify them, and exerted the most wholesome influence in reconciling all differences. He has the hearty thanks of the commission for his presence and efforts, and we regret that it was not in our power to give him some substantial evidence of our appreciation of his conduct. Dr. Daniels, United States agent at the Red Cloud agency, was also of the greatest service to us on account of his familiarity with the several tribes of the Dakota Nation, and with their language. His interpreter, Joseph Bisnet, we found of great service, and entirely reliable.

We made our entire tour of more than six thousand miles, much of it in the region frequented by what had been considered hostile Indians, without any military protection or escort whatever. To say that we were entirely unmolested by Indians is the strongest evidence we can give of their friendly disposition toward the whites.

We brought with us to Washington, besides the agent, A. J. Simmons, of the Milk River agency, and William Benoiste, interpreter, the following Indian chiefs and young warriors from those now at Fort Peck, in accordance with your suggestion: Medicine Bear, Afraid of the Bear, Black Eye, Black Cat Fish, Skin of the Heart, Eagle Packer, Bloody Mouth, Red Thunder, Long Fox, Gray Crane Walking.

Of the young braves and warriors: Many Horns, Red Lodge, Good Hawk, Black Horn, Bull Rushes, Man that brandishes his War-club Walking, Yellow Eagle, Lost Medicine.

At the Grand River agency, upon the invitation of the chairman of our commission, Colonel J. C. O'Connor, the agent joined us with the following delegation, viz: Dr. S. S. Turner, surgeon of the agency; John Breguier, interpreter; Mrs. Galpin; Bear's Rib, Running Antelope, Thunder Hawk, Iron Horn, Walking Shooter of the Unepapa tribe; The Grass, Sitting Crow, and Iron Scare, of the Blackfeet Sioux; Two Bears, Red Bear, and Bull's Ghost, of the Lower Yanktonnais tribe; Big Head, Black Eye, and Big Razee, of Upper Yanktonnais.

B. R. COWEN.

Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

N. J. TURNER.

J. W. WHAM.

D.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,

Washington, January 25, 1872.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of a report from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, dated the 23d instant, inclosing an estimate of appropriation of \$500,000 for the purpose of subsisting and clothing the Teton and other bands of Sioux Indians near Fort Peck, in Montana, together with copies of reports of Superintendent of Indian Affairs J. A. Viall and Special Indian Agent A. J. Simmons, in relation to these Indians.

The report of the Commissioner fully explains the necessity of legislation for the object named.

I concur in the recommendation that there be appropriated the sum of \$500,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary to provide subsistence and clothing, and for such other objects as the Department may deem proper for the civilization and improvement of said Indians, and the subject is respectfully submitted for the favorable consideration of Congress.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. DELANO, *Secretary.*

The SPEAKER of the House of Representatives.

E.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,

Washington, D. C., January 23, 1872.

SIR: By instructions from the Department of the 6th of September, 1871, Mr. J. A. Viall, superintendent Indian affairs for Montana, was directed to visit the Teton-Sioux roaming through the northeastern portion of that Territory between the Yellowstone and Upper Missouri Rivers, with a view to ascertain the cause of their hostile attitude

toward the Government and its citizens, and what steps would be necessary to secure peace and save our border settlements from further depredations on the part of these Indians.

I herewith have the honor to lay before you copies, in duplicate, of the superintendent's report on this subject, and of the proceedings of a council with said Indians, held at Fort Peck in November last.

Before proceeding to the consideration of this report specifically, it may not be out of place to make a brief statement of the present condition of the Sioux Indians generally, and of what has thus far been accomplished through the liberal provisions made by the Government for their subsistence and civilization.

By the terms of the treaty with the Sioux of different tribes, &c., of April 29, 1868, (Stat. 15, p. 635,) a reservation, bounded on the north by the forty-sixth parallel of north latitude, east by the Missouri River, south by the north line of Nebraska, and west by the one hundredth degree west longitude, was set apart for these Indians; clothing, goods, and farming-implements were to be furnished them, and school and mission houses, agency buildings, mills, &c., were to be erected for their benefit. At the time that arrangements were made for negotiating this treaty, large bodies of Sioux, roaming over an immense country, were, with other tribes, in open hostility to the Government, spreading terror and desolation wherever they went, and a general Indian war was imminent. They are now gradually being collected upon the reservation, and the reports of the various agents to whose charge they have been committed show a good spirit prevailing among, substantially, all of them, and a willingness on the part of many to abandon their nomadic habits and engage in industrial pursuits.

There are three agencies on the reserve, established under the treaty of 1868, one (known as the Whetstone) near the head of White River, one at the mouth of the Cheyenne, and one at the mouth of Grand River. These are in addition to the agency on the east of the Missouri, at Crow Creek, established under former treaties with the Sioux.

The Crow Creek agency embraces about two thousand four hundred Lower Yanktonnais, Lower Brulés, and Two Kettles, under Medicine Bull and other chiefs. These Indians, particularly the Lower Yanktonnais, are of a quiet, peaceable disposition, engaged to a limited extent in agricultural pursuits, and faithful in the observance of treaty stipulations.

The Whetstone agency has in charge a portion of the Brulé and Ogallala bands, with about one thousand seeders from other Sioux bands, numbering in all some four thousand five hundred souls. The principal chiefs of these Indians are Spotted Tail, Swift Bear, and Little Wound. Spotted Tail and most of the Indians belonging to the agency are by executive authority, at present hunting in Western Nebraska, on the head-waters of the Republican River.

The Cheyenne River agency takes in the greater portion of the Minneconjoux, Sans Arc, and Two Kettle bands of Sioux, with a part of the Brulé, Blackfeet, Ogallala, Yanktonnais, and Ojibwa bands, numbering in all about five thousand. Little Blackfoot, the One Feather, Iron Eyes, and Mandan are prominent chiefs. The Two Kettle band and a few of the Sans Arcs and Minneconjoux manifest a desire to abandon their roving life, establish themselves in homes, and live in peace with all; but the majority of the Indians of this agency are yet wild, and opposed to laboring for support. Except a few minor depredations said to have been committed by them, they have, however, thus far remained quiet and peaceable.

To the Grand River agency are attached some seven thousand Indians of the Blackfeet, Yanktonnais, Cuthead, Ojibwa, and a few of the Two Kettles, Sans Arc, Ogallala, and Brulé bands of Sioux, under Two Bears, All-Over-Black, The Grass, and others as chiefs. Except the Ojibwas, who are wild and difficult to combat, the general conduct of these Indians since they were placed upon the reservation has been good, and many of them are anxious to farm and to have lands allotted to them in severalty. About eight hundred acres of ground have been broken by the agent, and the affairs of the agency are in a favorable condition.

On the North Platte, about thirty miles southeast of Fort Laramie, Wyoming Territory, are temporarily located the Ogallala Sioux, under the chieftainship of Red Cloud. Red Cloud, with a considerable number of followers, has, during the past summer, been hunting in the Powder River country, and has not yet reported at the agency.

There are fed at this agency seven thousand six hundred and thirty-six Sioux Indians, including a few Brulés, Minneconjoux, and Ojibwas, who have seceded from their respective tribes.

From the above statement it will be perceived that there are now collected on the reservation in Dakota, and under the control of the various agencies, some nineteen thousand Sioux Indians, besides those temporarily located in Wyoming.

The number of Sioux who are yet roaming at large cannot be definitely ascertained. During the past fall a large number of these Indians, composed of the Santee, Yankton, Yanktonnais, Sisseton, Wahpeton, and other bands, and numbering some two

thousand lodges, collected at or near the Milk River agency, in Montana, and notified the agent at that place that they intended to make their permanent homes in the country occupied by the Assinaboines, Gros-Ventres, and River Crows. These Indians have thus far been supplied with food, and have remained quiet and peaceable. An appropriation (\$100,000) to enable this service to be continued during the remainder of the fiscal year has already been asked.

In addition to the foregoing, there is also a large number of Sioux now collected in Montana, some sixty miles south of Fort Peck, on the Missouri River. These Indians, numbering some eleven thousand, are under Sitting Bull and Black Moon, the most aggressive and powerful chiefs remaining in a hostile attitude to the Government. They are known as the Teton-Sioux. Most of them have never been upon reservations, and they have uniformly in the past avowed their intention to depredate upon the trading and military posts in that section of the country, and also to prevent the construction of the Northern Pacific Railroad through what they claim to be their lands.

By the inclosed report of the proceedings of a council recently held with the Teton-Sioux, the gratifying intelligence is received that these Indians have become anxious, in their turn, for peace, and it is now reasonable to expect that, by judicious management and friendly negotiations, they also may be brought under the control of the Department, and further depredations by them upon the people of Montana and neighboring Territories prevented.

In his interviews with Black Moon and other chiefs, Agent Simmons reports the following terms to have been agreed upon: No war parties are to go out of the Teton camp, and no further hostilities are to be engaged in on their part against the whites, pending negotiations for peace; the agent to report to the Department Black Moon's words, and to ask that subsistence be provided for him and his people. It was also agreed that the agent should visit them again as soon as practicable, bringing the words of the President; Black Moon in the mean time to go to his people, to talk and counsel with them for peace, and urge a delegation to visit Washington.

The agent believes that if the negotiations thus initiated are promptly followed up, the submission of the whole tribe will result.

Concurring in these views, and indorsing the recommendation contained in the superintendent's report, that means be provided for subsisting Black Moon and his followers, conditioned upon a faithful observance of their pledges, I have now the honor to lay before you the inclosed estimate for the sum of \$500,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary, to provide subsistence and clothing for the Teton and other bands of Sioux near Fort Peck, Montana Territory, and for such other objects as the Secretary of the Interior may deem necessary and advisable for the civilization and improvement of said Indians, and to request that the same be laid before Congress for favorable consideration.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

F. A. WALKER,
Commissioner.

HON. C. DELANO,
Secretary of the Interior.

Estimate of appropriations required to care for the Teton and other bands of Sioux in Montana Territory, up to June 30, 1873.

For this amount, or so much thereof as may be necessary, to purchase subsistence and clothing for the Teton and other bands of Sioux in the vicinity of Fort Peck, Montana Territory, and for such other objects as the Secretary of the Interior may deem necessary and advisable to promote the civilization and improvement of said Indians.

\$500,000

F.

OFFICE SUPERINTENDENT INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Helena, Montana Territory, December 23, 1871.

SIR: I have the honor to report that, in compliance with Department letter of instructions dated September 7, also inclosing copy of letter from Hon. Secretary of the Interior bearing date September 6, authorizing me to visit the Teton-Sioux for the purpose of ascertaining as nearly as possible their desires and what would be necessary to procure peace between these Indians and the white settlers on our northwestern border, I had arranged to go down the Yellowstone, expecting to find their encampment between the Yellowstone and Powder Rivers; but the order for a military escort, which

at that time was considered absolutely necessary to visit these Indians, and which was obtained at the Department's request, having been subsequently countermanded by order of the War Department, for the reason "of not having a sufficient number of troops in this military district, and believing it unsafe to send a small detachment into their country." I was therefore compelled to adopt some other means of communicating with these Indians.

After consultation with Agent Simmons, the plan of reaching them by the Milk River route was adopted. I therefore authorized Agent Simmons to organize a party, consisting of good and reliable men, such as he could depend upon, to insure safety in case of meeting with hostile Indians. This was done by employing three men and taking three employes from the Milk River agency, together with five trustworthy Indians, who were on friendly terms with the Teton and had access to their camp, and who proved of great assistance in bringing about the interviews.

As will be seen by the report of Agent Simmons, a copy of which is herewith transmitted for your information, he met the head chief, Black Moon, and a number of chiefs less in authority, accompanied by two hundred lodges, at Fort Peck, and remained twenty-one days in council. A strong desire for peace was manifested by them, and important arrangements were entered into preliminary to effecting a permanent peace, they agreeing to stop all further aggressions until they hear from or see the agent again and ascertain whether the Government will supply them with food as a consideration for the loss of their game in consequence of the proposed construction of the North Pacific Railroad through the country claimed and occupied by them.

I am of the opinion if the Indians are subsisted and judiciously managed, they can be brought upon a peace-footing and further hostilities prevented.

It will be seen, on reference to inclosed copy of report, that Black Moon, head chief of the Teton-Sioux Nation, and others declare they will make peace, and also that Sitting Bull and the soldiers of the camp prevented a war-party from going on the war-path. These are significant facts, worthy of consideration, as showing their desires and efforts for peace.

I would respectfully recommend that measures be adopted for subsisting Black Moon and followers, conditioned upon a faithful observance of their pledges. The established policy of the administration in dealing with Indians, justice, humanity, and economy alike demand that our best efforts should be put forth to aid and assist these people, who now desire peace with the Government, that a savage and a bloody warfare may be prevented.

I inclose herewith map of the Milk River country and that occupied by the Teton-Sioux, transmitted with the copy of Agent Simmons's report, for the information of the Department.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. A. VIALI,
Superintendent Indians for Montana.

Hon. F. A. WALKER,
Commissioner Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.

G.

FORT BROWNING, MONTANA TERRITORY,
Milk River Agency, December 5, 1871.

SIR: Pursuant to your instructions directing me to visit the bands of Teton-Sioux roaming between the Missouri and Yellowstone Rivers, with the object of obtaining full information in regard to their disposition for peace, &c., to enable the Department to take such steps as might be proper in the premises and to ascertain whether a delegation of said chiefs could be induced to visit Washington for the purpose of concluding a treaty, I have the honor to report that I arrived at Fort Peck, on the Missouri River, near the mouth of Milk River, on the night of the 4th day of November, and found the Teton encamped from twenty to sixty miles south of that place; that I met the head chief and orator of the Onepapas or Teton Nation, Black Moon, (We Sapa,) and five other chiefs, viz, Iron Dog, Long Dog, Little Wound, Sitting Eagle, and Bear's Rib, besides a great many head-men and two hundred lodges of these people. I remained among them twenty-one days, during which time I had fifteen interviews, of from one to ten hours' duration each.

Before proceeding further, and in order that you may have a full understanding of the matter, I will state a few facts and circumstances concerning the visit of Sitting Bull and other Teton to Fort Peck prior to my arrival.

These people have been hostile to the whites for many years, having made war upon all the posts on the Upper Missouri, and committed a great many depredations and murders. They have refused all friendly intercourse with whites, not even having

been at peace with the white traders on the borders of their country, but have procured ammunition and necessary articles of supplies by traffic with the half-breeds of the north and friendly Indians. From their standpoint, all whites found in or traveling through their country are regarded as enemies intruding upon their hunting-grounds and interfering with their game; but their hostilities have not been confined to these, as they have made frequent incursions out of their country into white settlements and committed depredations.

Fort Peck was established five years ago as a trading-post for tribes who have since moved farther west, and the Tetons have come to that vicinity, so that the post may now be regarded as a convenient point to them for trade. The trader at this point has sent frequent messengers to them, with presents of tobacco, inviting them to come in and make peace with the post for purposes of trade, which have been unheeded on the part of the Indians, until the 8th day of September last, when Sitting Bull, the head war chief of the nation, with a small party, came to the post after night-fall and called out his name, stating he came as a friend and for peace. He was treated well by the trader, with whom he established a truce and arranged for his people to trade, after which small parties continued to come in, and on the 12th day of October following Sitting Bull again visited the post. At this visit I am informed he expressed a desire to see an agent of the Government; said that the Tetons would make peace, and that they would not allow any more war-parties to go out of the camp, which declaration was verified a short time afterward in the following manner: A war-party had organized and was about starting out upon a foray up the river against other tribes and whites. The "soldiers" of the camp, headed by Sitting Bull, prevented its going, at the cost, however, of a fight, in which eight men and some twenty horses were killed, and the bodies of the refractory persons were cut to pieces by the "soldiers." I was not disposed to credit this statement at first, but it came to me from so many different sources, and in such a reliable manner, that I became convinced of its truthfulness.

Like most other bands of Sioux, the Tetons have an organization for the government of the camp, called the "soldiers," composed of leading and influential men. Their authority is supreme, and their mandates are arbitrary and must be obeyed; otherwise severe penalties are inflicted, such as cutting lodges to pieces, killing horses, and sometimes inflicting the death penalty upon the culprits.

On my arrival at Fort Peck I found it wholly impracticable to visit the Teton camp. I therefore sent messengers, with presents of tobacco, inviting the head chiefs and head-men to come in, employing as messengers Onepapas and the friendly trustworthy Indians who accompanied me. My first messenger was kindly received, but while he was smoking in a lodge and delivering my message, the horse I had loaned him to ride was spirited away by some evil-disposed person. His dignity and outraged feelings not permitting him to accept another, which was proffered by Sitting Bull, he returned on foot, a distance of fifty miles. Sitting Bull, however, dispatched a messenger to me deploring the loss of the horse and stating he would find it and bring it in when he came. Communication was kept up with the camp, and small parties continued to arrive daily until the 14th of November, when Black Moon, the chiefs before named, and an encampment of two hundred lodges arrived. I was then informed that the "soldiers" had refused to allow Sitting Bull to leave the camp on account of apprehended disturbances among the people resulting from the conflict above referred to. He sent word he could not come to see me at that time, but that he desired the Black Moon and his brother-in-law, Shunkahaska, to speak for him. Interviews were now held with Black Moon and party during the following ten days. Much information was elicited, and an agreement entered into whereby a truce was established. Notes were taken of all important conferences, and I herewith present all the main points in as brief and condensed a form as possible.

I told them I came as messenger from the President to learn their disposition: whether they would make peace or were going to continue their warfare on the whites; the President was anxious to live in peace, on friendly terms with them. Peace would be mutually beneficial; their brethren, the Ogallalas, had made peace a short time ago, and a delegation, headed by Red Cloud, had visited the President and returned to their homes in safety; the Santee and Yanktonnais, on the other side of them, had entered into peaceful arrangements last summer with the whites, and were now our friends. All the tribes around them were contented; did not live in constant fear of white soldiers; were getting along better than the Tetons, because they were friends to the whites, and listened to the words of the Great White Father and his agents. Game, upon which they depended for subsistence, was fast disappearing. If they continued their warfare they would also disappear—would perish with the buffalo; if they made peace, and remained faithful to it, they would live, and the President would keep them, as he did all friendly tribes. Told them I had no authority to make a treaty, but urged a delegation of chiefs to visit Washington and arrange terms with the Great Father, who had sent for them; I would accompany them to where the superintendent lived, and guaranteed them a safe journey.

Black Moon declared himself emphatically in favor of peace, and stated Sitting Bull

agreed with him and would stand by him; that most of their head-men and men of sense wanted peace with the whites. Whatever he said he would do; he would make it so; when he talked in camp all the people listened; was afraid of no Indian, and spoke what he believed to be good and right; he had the power to make good his words. He would now tell me, if we wished to have peace with all the Tetons, what the President must do. He must stop the railroad, (meaning the Northern Pacific;) it was going to pass through their country, and would destroy the game; the white soldiers and citizens must be kept out of their country; the Tetons would not make peace with the soldiers; Fort Buford below, and the Muscleshell trading-post above, must be abandoned. If the Great White Father would do these things it would satisfy all, and they would have peace; demanded of me to tell him whether he would do it. They would smoke over the proposition of going to Washington when he returned to camp.

Others spoke, generally indorsing what Black Moon had said. The railroad was being built through their country without their consent. How could they live when the game was gone? They would die, and rather choose to die like brave men, fighting. One declared he would make war upon the railroad to the last. I replied that the railroad would be built; that they might as well undertake to stop the Missouri River from flowing down stream as to stop the railroad. They had already seen one railroad built across the plains and over the mountains. The Sioux declared at that time that they would prevent it, but they found themselves powerless to stop it. That road now transported presents and provisions from the President to the Indians in that vicinity. It would be the same with this road if they made peace; it would be a great benefit to them. The Great Father would help them to live if they ceased their warfare. He was strong and powerful; his white children were as numerous as the trees in the mountains. He could exterminate the Tetons if he so desired; they were but a handful, with inferior arms to those of the friendly tribes. The Great Father's heart was good; he took pity upon them because they were weak and inferior. He had seven great and good men, who made it their business, without pay, to labor for the improvement of the Indians. The Tetons must do as all the tribes around them had already done: cease their hostilities, make peace, learn the ways and to live as the whites do, and to accept the civilization that was now surrounding them; otherwise they would perish. If they had men who would rather throw their lives away fighting than accept peace and its benefits, would tell them if they were brave men they would think of their women and children, and not subject them to the sacrifice of war and starvation. Brave men who had sense and hearts would not do that. In regard to the country they occupied and roamed through, and through which the railroad would pass, I would tell them that it belonged to the whites, as the Crows and Gros-Ventres had ceded it by treaty to the President. The Tetons had no right to it, and could occupy it only by permission of the President. In regard to Fort Buford and the Muscleshell trading-post, they were outside of the country occupied by the Tetons. They had waged ineffectual warfare on both. Fort Buford stood between them and the tribes below, with whom they were at war, but who were friends to the whites, and Muscleshell was in their way, as it interfered with their war parties against the upper tribes; hence their desire to have the posts abandoned. If they kept away from these posts they would do them no harm. The Great Father was in the habit of sending his soldiers whenever it was necessary to protect his people and their property. If the Tetons ceased their hostilities and made peace there would probably be no occasion for soldiers coming into their country. They had made war upon whites for several years; had committed many outrages; charged them with having made a raid into the Galatin Valley last July, and killed two inoffending citizens and driven off a large number of horses; and that some of them now said they would make war upon the construction of the railroad. Would tell them plainly I did not believe their Great Father would submit any longer to such conduct; that if they made war upon the railroad he would send soldiers enough here to punish them severely. They could not now carry on warfare against white soldiers like they had in former times in the lower country. Their game was then abundant; they could fight and subsist. Now, if the white soldiers should rout their camp and keep them moving for thirty days they would starve to death. I had just traveled one hundred and fifty miles without seeing a buffalo. I came as their friend, to tell them the truth; urged them to consider well my words, talk and smoke over them in camp—smoke the tobacco the Great White Chief had sent them, and make up their minds whether they would make peace and live, or continue hostilities and die like the wolves. Urged a party of chiefs to go and see the President, who was anxious to shake hands with them and agree upon terms of peace.

Black Moon denied they were going to fight the railroad; they had not all made up their minds what they would do about that. Whoever said he would fight spoke for himself alone. He would tell his people present that a few days ago the chiefs and soldiers in camp did not let a war party go out, and their camp was in mourning in consequence. Wanted to know if this man was writing down his words for me to take to the Great Father. Told him such was the case. He said "Tell him this;" (Repeated

the circumstance of the conflict among his people, the "soldiering" of a war party in which eight men and twenty horses were killed and lodges cut up.) "Tell the Great White Father this was done for peace; that those who have sense and think as I do did that, and that we will make things go our way. There were many brave men among them who would throw their lives away fighting the white soldiers; they were fools and would not listen to reason; they could not control them." Said he would talk and counsel for peace with his people. If they refused to listen he would take those who would follow and leave the camp and go to the north side of the Missouri. Many of the people would follow him; was afraid of the white soldiers; deprecated war with them; was alarmed and trembled for his people. As for himself he would have peace. (He then shook hands with eight white men present.) Said it was the Arapahoos who made the raid into the Gallatin Valley; declared that none of his people joined in it. Said in their way this country belonged to them; they had fought for it and driven the Crows and Gros Ventres back. The whites settled in and drove them out of their country below; they were compelled to come here where they could get some game; they crossed the Yellowstone six years ago; they had fought for the country they occupied, and it would be difficult to restrain their people from fighting again; pledged his best efforts for peace; would labor with his people. At the lower agencies they tied up the Indian children and whipped them in trying to learn them as white children are taught. The Tetons didn't want any civilization, but wanted something to eat. The railroad would fill the country with whites and whites' houses: their game would be destroyed. Made a strong appeal for provisions to be furnished them as a basis for peace and in consideration of their giving up their country to the railroad. Several others talked, concurring with Black Moon; represented the destitution of their people and urged that supplies be furnished them. I replied if they made peace and lived up to it they would receive assistance.

On the 1th of November runners arrived from the main camp reporting scouts had come in giving information of a party of soldiers on the Yellowstone, (Colonel Baker's command from Fort Ellis;) also an expedition had been discovered lower down on that river a short time before, accompanied, they said, by a party of Indians dressed in soldiers' uniform. There was much excitement, much talk, and some preparation for fighting. They wanted to know the object of these soldiers—if they were coming to fight them. I explained that they were escorting the engineers looking the route for the railroad; that they would not harm them unless the Tetons attacked them. I demanded of Black Moon that he make good his words of yesterday. If he was sincere in his expressions for peace and wished the President to regard him as a big chief, now was the time to act to prevent a conflict which would bring on a war that would be terrible in its result to his people. After consultation among themselves, messengers were sent to camp headed by Black Moon's son, advising them to keep away from these expeditions, and not to begin any war. I furnished tobacco and feasts to take to the "soldiers'" lodge, and dispatched one of my Indians with the party.

In another interview with Black Moon and party the following terms were definitely agreed upon:

No war parties are to go out of the Teton camp, and no further hostilities are to be engaged in on their part against the whites pending negotiations for peace, I agreeing to report to the Department Black Moon's words, the disposition for peace, and to ask the Great Father to provide them with food, and to visit them again as soon as practicable, bringing the words of the President. In the mean time Black Moon goes to his people to talk, and counsel with them for peace, and urge a delegation to visit the President. He solemnly declares he will have peace for himself and his band proper, and if the others decide upon war he will leave them, and take with him all who want peace.

A few days after this I received a message from Sitting Bull, stating he had found the horse lost by my messenger; that it was not good for him to leave the camp then, but as soon as he could do so he would bring the horse to Fort Peck, and that he and Black Moon would visit me at Fort Browning during the winter.

Becoming convinced that no opposition had been made to the expedition on the Yellowstone escorting the railroad engineers, and believing that Black Moon and others were sincere in their expressions and desire for peace, upon their urgent demands I purchased a small amount of flour, sugar, and coffee from the trader at Fort Peck, and gave it to them, and sent some presents to the "soldiers'" lodge, with words of encouragement and advice. As little expense was incurred as possible under the circumstances, and the little given them was absolutely necessary in furtherance of the object of my visit. The accounts for the same will be forwarded at an early day.

I was disappointed in not being able to meet the chiefs, Four Horns, Red Horn, and Sitting Bull. However, I am of the opinion that three of those with whom I held council—Black Moon, Iron Dog, and Long Dog—are as influential and as great as any of the tribe.

It was impossible, from the conflicting statements, to obtain anything like a correct

estimate as to their numbers, but I am convinced the various bands comprising the Teton Nation, now in proximity to Fort Peck, will not fall short of one thousand four hundred lodges. Estimating eight souls to the lodge, would make a population of 11,200.

That a portion of the Teton-Sioux are not only willing, but anxious, to make peace with the Government is certain, and if the steps already taken are promptly followed up, it may lead to a reconciliation of the whole tribe.

Many of the chiefs and leading men fully understand their situation, and the results that will follow the opening up of their country to civilization by the North Pacific Railroad; that game will disappear; that they will be surrounded and overpowered by whites, and will perish by starvation, cold, and warfare, unless they make peace and obtain assistance from the Government. They have a wholesome fear of the power of the Government and its military, which will prove the most influential motive in inducing them to accept peace.

That all further depredations can be prevented, and a thorough peace be maintained with this powerful and aggressive band through friendly negotiations, is, from the very nature of things, uncertain and improbable. However, the surrounding circumstances place them in a favorable condition for receiving peaceful overtures at the present time, and it is certain much good can be accomplished. I would, therefore, earnestly call your attention to the importance of the Department rendering prompt and substantial aid to the peace party, headed by Black Moon, believing that if this is done before any conflict shall arise with the people of the North Pacific Railroad, and the Indians are made to feel that they will receive assistance from the Government, a general war with the tribe, which would be expensive, protracted, and sanguinary in its results, may be averted.

While at Fort Peck I also met small parties of Indians from Grand River and Devil's Lake agencies, to whom I represented the consequences of roaming from their homes and mingling with the hostile bands, and advised them to return to their agencies, which they promised to do.

I transmit herewith, in duplicate, a map of the Milk River country, showing the present location of Indian tribes. It is made from actual observation, and is believed to be mainly correct. One copy is intended for transmittal to the honorable Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. J. SIMMONS,

United States Special Indian Agent, Milk River Agency.

J. A. VAILL, Esq.,

Superintendent Indian Affairs, Helena, Montana Territory.

II.

Fifth.—The Ti-tou-wan council-fire.

The Indians belonging to this council-fire live entirely beyond the Mississippi River, on that and the Teton Rivers, their territory extending above Cannon Ball River and south to Lacon-qui-court (Ni-obrarah) River, which is the boundary between the Poncas, a small tribe.

The Ti-t'wans are a nomadic people, living altogether by hunting the buffalo, and are divided into several important sub-bands, from one of which the *Sioune*, (See-o-o-nay,) the white name of Sioux, (See-oos,) now universally contracted into Soos, has been derived for the whole Dakota nation.

The name of the sub-tribe, in the Dakota language, is *Ti-tou-wan*, which is said to be from *ti-pi*, (*tepe*), lodge or dwelling, and *Tou-wan*, community or people; and therefore they are the "People of the Lodges." Others derive the name from *tinta*, (tent), signifying a *prairie*, and the ordinary suffix *lou-wan*—that is, "People of the Prairie." This latter appears to have some authority to sustain it. Hennepin, when at the Falls in 1660, "was informed by the Indians that there was another falls, about twenty or thirty leagues above Saint Anthony, near which was a tribe of Indians called *Ten-ton-hu*, or *Prairie Indians*." This "other falls" was probably Sauk Rapids, which is about seventy miles, or over twenty leagues above Saint Anthony's, and the Tetans were perhaps named from their villages on the meadow and prairie-like country around the rapids. La Hontan, in 1688, also enumerates the *Atintans* as among the tribes north on the Upper Mississippi, thus corroborating Hennepin. Though now several hundred miles west of their old homes, the Ti-t'wans (as it is written, though sounded Tee-twawns) are still the "People of the Prairies."

On the map of Lewis and Clarke's expedition in 1803 they are put down as being in two great bands, who are designated as "Tetans of the Burnt Woods," living about

Tetan River, and the "Tetans-Saone," farther north, near the Cannon Ball River, each division being noted as then numbering fifteen hundred, and their territory is marked as extending on both sides of the river. This is believed not to be the case at the present time, and of course they are not in this superintendency, nor probably are any of the Missouri bands, though some of them reside within its *ex-officio* limits. They are under the care of the Indian agents for the Upper Missouri, who make their reports to the Department to the superintendent at Saint Louis.

The Ti-t'wans, by all accounts, like the other Dakotas of the plains, are a large, finely-formed, tall, and vigorous race of people, hardy, indomitable, and restless warriors, daring horsemen, and skillful hunters, possessing in perfection all the Indian virtues of bravery, cunning, treachery, and hospitality—true to each other, and ready foes to all else besides.

At the mouth of the Tetan River, in their country, is the great central trading-post, Fort Pierre, belonging to Pierre Chouteau, jr., and commonly known as the American Fur Company. This is their principal post, and the general point of concentration for all the Dakotas of the Missouri, fur trade, and barter. They visit the post in great numbers, camping around it in large bodies, often for a considerable period of time. The annual receipts of buffalo-robbs alone, at this and other posts on the Upper Missouri, are reported to be about seventy-five thousand, for which the Indians receive in goods at the rate of \$3 per robe.

The first treaty by the United States with the Ti-t'wan council fire was one of amity and friendship, in July 10, 1815, at Portage des Sioux, on the Missouri. Another treaty of a similar nature was negotiated with them, the Ihauk-t'wans, and the Ihauk-t'wan-ahs, jointly, in June, 1825, at Fort Lookout, on the Missouri, near the "three rivers of the Sioux Pass;" and still another, the Ogallala, (probably *Oh-da-da*, or "always moving,") and the Sioune bands of the Ti-t'wans at the mouth of the Tetan River in July, 1825.

From these successive treaties of peace and friendship it is evident that the Ti-t'wans were in those days, as in this, a troublesome sub-tribe, who, having little vocation for peace, no treaties could long keep friendly.

They are the most numerous of all the council-fires of the Dakotas, and have been estimated to comprise, in all the several bands, over six thousand souls. In 1803 Lewis and Clarke computed their force at eight hundred and fifty warriors, and remarked that "the bands of Sioux most known in the Missouri are the Tetans.